



Center for Environmental Health Services



Four Centers of Excellence

Center for Environmental Health Services



- The Center for Environmental Health Services is committed to the promotion of the control and/or reduction in acute and chronic diseases caused by unsafe environmental conditions.
- The Center plays a key role in the protection of the public's health and an even more essential one for the health of our citizens. Each service that is provided touches and protects the lives of everyone in Louisiana.

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Our Vision . . .

“Healthy People in a Healthy Environment”

We will attain our vision by:

- Developing and enforcing regulations that protect the environment;
- Investigating health hazards in the community;
- Providing leadership in our programs that allow for the prevention and control of disease; and
- Setting standards for excellence by being customer-focused, responsive, accessible, efficient and caring.

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Center Responsibility

In the Center for Environmental Health Services our primary responsibility is protection of public health through the *promulgation, implementation,* and *enforcement* of the Louisiana State Sanitary Code.

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The Louisiana Sanitary Code

- The Sanitary Code is a compilation of regulations enacted by DHH over a period of many years, and is really an environmental medical practice that is applied to the entire population of the State of Louisiana.
- Today, on average, Americans live thirty years longer than they did a century ago. That is due, in no small part, to the role that the protection of the environment has played in the United States: such *things that we take for granted today, like sanitation, improved hygiene, clean and safe drinking water, and the list goes on.*

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The Louisiana Sanitary Code

- The provisions of the Sanitary Code are contained in its twenty-eight chapters, and contain the rules, regulations, and requirements that provide for the protection of the public's health.
- Our tradition in the center has been to provide a health protection and regulatory role with regard to the protection of Louisiana's citizens (as well as our visitors and tourists) from environmental threats and hazards.

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Programs and Activities:



Programs and activities in the center touch and protect the lives of every Louisiana citizen, as well as those who visit Louisiana, through our:

- Inspections,
- Monitoring,
- Laboratory analyses of food, water, drugs, cosmetics, etc., as well as the evaluation of those results,
- Regulation and permitting, and
- Environmental public health assessments

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Programs and Activities:



The programs and activities that the Center regulates include:

- Food that we eat,
- Water that we drink,
- Seafood that we catch (or that we buy) and eat,
- Drugs that we take,
- Proper disposal of our wastes, and
- Control of contagious and infectious disease.

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Programs and Activities:



Center programs include:

- **Drinking Water Loan Program**

- Low interest loans to drinking water systems

- **Engineering Services**

- Safe Drinking Water Program
- Sewerage Program
- Water and Wastewater Operator
- Certification Program

- **Environmental Epidemiology & Toxicology**

- fish advisory program
- hazardous substance exposure investigations
- environmental health risk assessments and surveillance
- environmental risk communication and education

- **Permit Unit**

- billing, collecting fees and permitting for all programs in Environmental Health

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Programs and Activities:



Sanitarian Services

- Buildings & Premises Program
- Food & Drug Program
- Infectious Waste Program
- Milk & Dairy Products Program
- Molluscan Shellfish Program
- On-Site Wastewater Program
- Retail Food Program
- Seafood Sanitation Program

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Programs and Activities:



Center Operations

- Policies, procedures, guidance, and rulemaking for all programs managed through the Center staff are developed in the State Central Office at Baton Rouge.
- Implementation of all policies, procedures, and enforcement is through the Regional and Parish offices. The Regional office staff is responsible for supervision, oversight and monitoring of Parish Health Unit staff, to determine that policies are implemented in a uniform and consistent manner. The Parish Health Unit staff is responsible for the implementation of all Center programs.

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Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of Public Health



“Where can I get additional information?”

Please visit each Center's website at:

[http: www.oph.dhh.state.la.us](http://www.oph.dhh.state.la.us)

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